Owasippe

Our History & Heritage

Javier Montano, Kaylyn Dix, and Tom Nelson
E. Urner Goodman Owasippe Museum Committee

There are many legends regarding the lands, rivers and lakes of this area.....

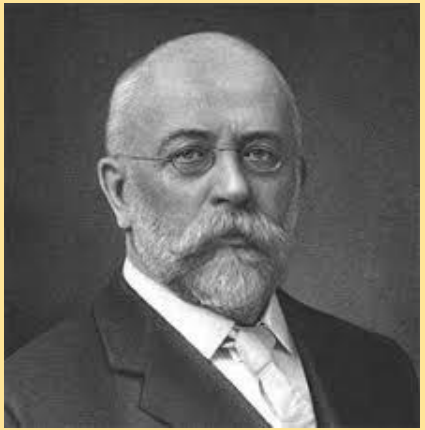
Where do we come from?

- In 1910 after returning from a trip to England (Lone Scout story), Chicago Printing Executive W. D. Boyce with the help of other businessmen and American outdoorsmen founded the Boy Scouts of America in the heart of downtown Chicago in the Boyce Building at 54 W. Illinois St.
- The local Chicago Council was formed in 1910 and incorporated in the BSA in 1911 (reorganized as Chicago Area Council in 1961)

THIS TABLET HONORS THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM D. BOYCE
WHO FROM HIS OFFICE
IN THIS BUILDING IN THE YEAR 1910
STARTED THE PROCEDURES FOR THE
ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION OF
THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
THIS TABLET PLACED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 1960

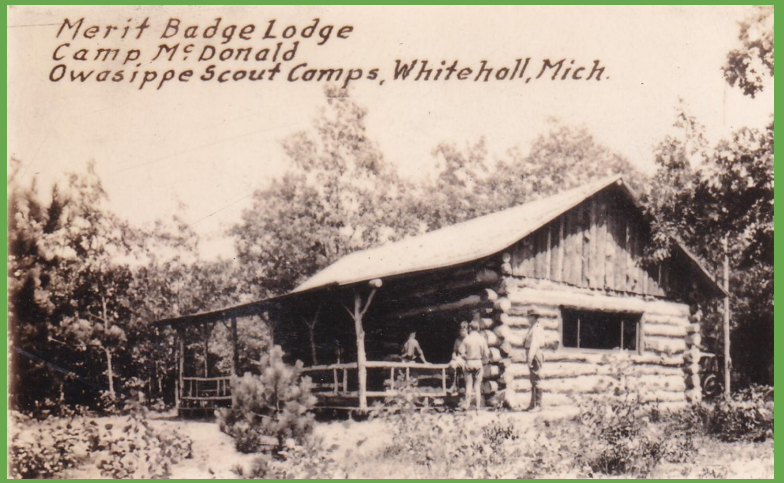
Camp Alfred Stamford White: The First Camp

- The camp was conceptualized in 1911 by a group of businessmen that headed to Whitehall from Chicago to investigate some property for a camp designed for Boy Scouts. Once they arrived, and talked with local community leaders, the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce agreed to donate 40 acres on Crystal Lake ***(Not THAT one)*** to the Boy Scouts, with the understanding that they would one day purchase another 80 acres.
- With the assistance of the Chicago Board of Trade and its President A. Stamford White, the first primitive encampments were founded on the shores of Owasippe Lake(Crystal Lake) as “CAMP WHITE” with our first camping season taking place in 1912



“Owasippe”

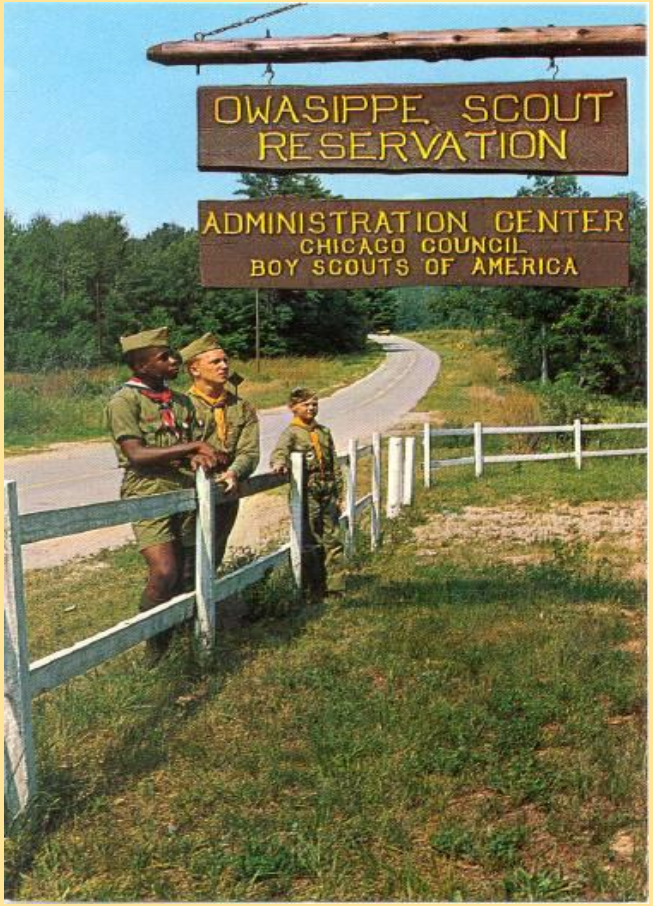
- The name was changed to Camp O-Wa-Sip-Pe in 1914 after a local Civil War veteran told the Legend of Owasippe to the Scouts at the end of the 1913 camping season
- In 1921, with the introduction of sub-camps, the collection of camps became known as the Owasippe Scout Camps
- Finally, in 1961 the name was changed to Owasippe Scout Reservation



Getting to Camp

Scouts and Staff would reach Owasippe by 4 main modes of transportation

- Steam Ship
- Rail
- Automobile
- School Busses



The S.S. Carolina

Goodrich Transit Company serviced Chicago Scouts on a seasonal line that went from Chicago to White Lake

The return voyage departed from White Lake at 8 p.m. Sunday night, arriving at Chicago at 6 a.m. Monday morning

Chicago Docks (Grand Street Docks & Chicago River)

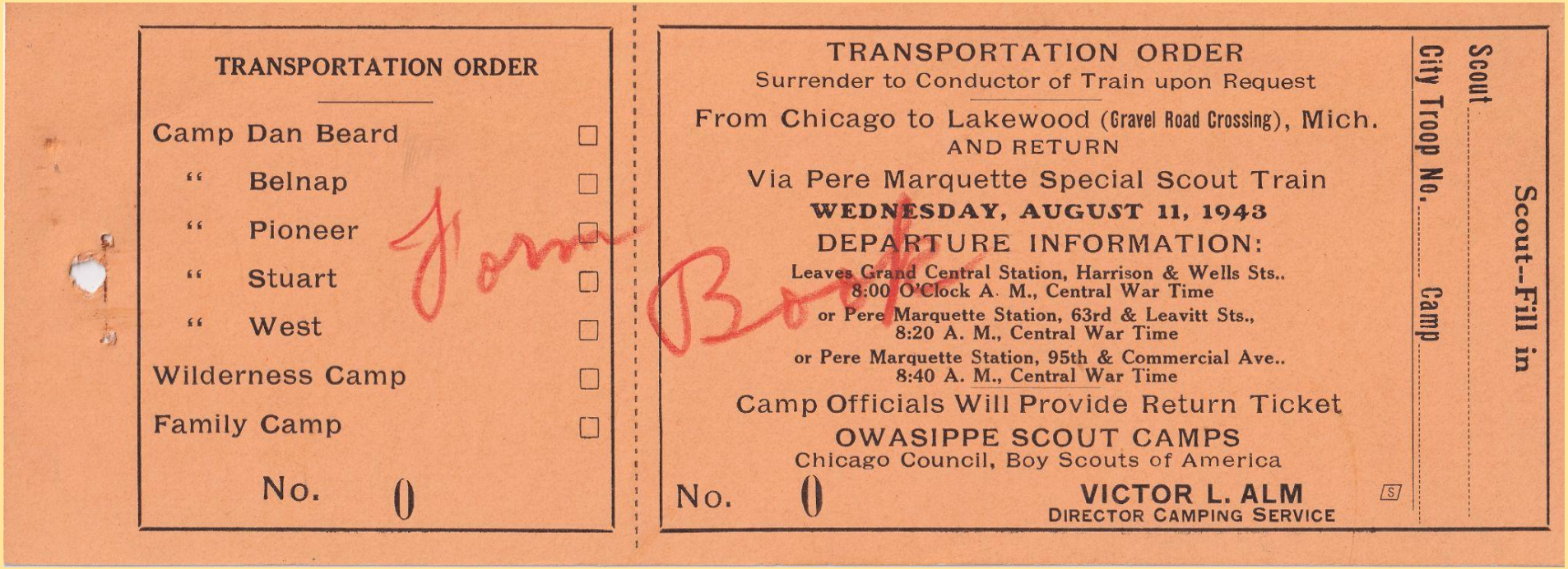
- Goodrich Transit Co. filed for bankruptcy and closed in 1933
- Carolina was stripped and became a stone barge in 1937-1950

Mobiloils
GASOLINE
WHITE LAKE GARAGE

Grand Central Station (Harrison & Wells), Departure for the "Scout Train"

Train - Pere Marquette Line at Lakewood Station Whistle Stop

Ticket from "Special Scout Train" on Pere Marquette Line, circa. WWII



TRANSPORTATION ORDER

Camp Dan Beard ☐
" Belnap ☐
" Pioneer ☐
" Stuart ☐
" West ☐
Wilderness Camp ☐
Family Camp ☐

No. 0

TRANSPORTATION ORDER
Surrender to Conductor of Train upon Request

From Chicago to Lakewood (Gravel Road Crossing), Mich.
AND RETURN
Via Pere Marquette Special Scout Train
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1943
DEPARTURE INFORMATION:
Leaves Grand Central Station, Harrison & Wells Sts..
8:00 O'Clock A. M., Central War Time
or Pere Marquette Station, 63rd & Leavitt Sts.,
8:20 A. M., Central War Time
or Pere Marquette Station, 95th & Commercial Ave..
8:40 A. M., Central War Time
Camp Officials Will Provide Return Ticket
OWASIPPE SCOUT CAMPS
Chicago Council, Boy Scouts of America
No. 0
VICTOR L. ALM
DIRECTOR CAMPING SERVICE

Scout--Fill in
Scout.....
City Troop No.....Camp.....

- "Central War Time" was the name given to the Central Time Zone during February 9, 1942, to September 30, 1945, during World War II. It was the Precursor to "Daylight-Savings Time" in 1966

Automobile and Busses

Bus PickUp Points

1. UIC Circle Campus
2. Lane Tech High School
3. Lake Street Council Office - STAFF

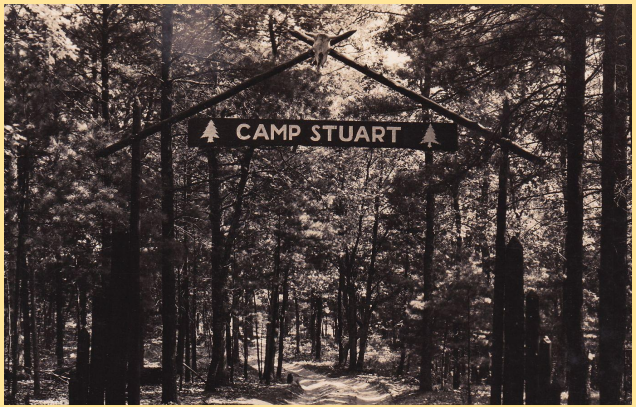
Owasippe and its Sub-Camps

Over our 115 years of operation Owasippe has had 19 unique camps on property, at our peak Owasippe sat on 12,000 acres of land. At peak operation in the late 1960's and early 1970's Owasippe ran 8 subcamps with a Reservation staff of over 400, and a weekly camping attendance surpassing 3,000. We were a Scouting Empire!

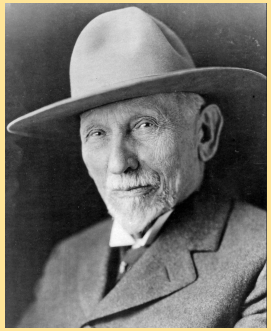
- **Camp Beard**
- **Camp West**
- **Camp Stuart (Formerly McDonald)**
- **Camp Bass Lake (Still there, Inactive)**
- **Camp Frontier (Still there, Inactive)**
- **Family Camp**
- **Camp Sauger Lake**
- **Camp Pioneer**
- **Camp Wilderness (Current Site of the Blackhawk Dining Hall)**
- **White River Lumber Camp**
- **Camp Shabbanau (Private)**
- **Camp Belnap**
- **Camp Checaugau**
- **Camp Hiawatha Beach (Still Active)**
- **Camp Blackhawk (Still Active)**
- **Camp Reneker (Still Active)**
- **Camps Wolverine North and South (Still Active, combined camp in 1980)**
- **Camp Robert Crown (Still standing, inactive since 1991)**
- **Camp Carlen (Still standing, inactive as of 2017, last used for Cub Camp. Dining Hall lost in an Arson fire May 15, 2001)**

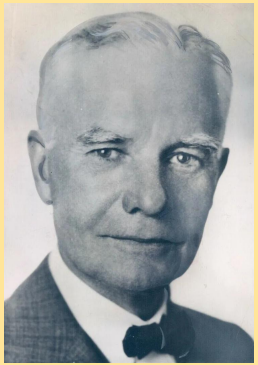
Camps West, Beard, and Stuart

1. Camp Beard (named after Daniel Carter Beard, closed after the 1970 season)
   a. Occupied the original 40 acre property (Camp White)
2. Camp West (named after James E. West, closed 1965)
   a. Named after 1st Chief Scout Executive from 1911-1943
3. Camp Stuart, formerly McDonald (renamed for the Stuart Family from the Quaker Oats Company, closed 1978)
   a. Camp Stuart, was originally named Camp McDonald after Louis L McDonald who served as the 2nd Reservation Director of Owasippe



- *Original Camp gate signs for Beard and Stuart hang in the Museum today*





Family Camp

- Owasippe is home to Scouting's first Family Camp program. Family Camp has known many homes around the reservation over our history, most notably however nestled on the Northern shores of Big Blue Lake. The purpose was for families to come spend time at camp while their Scout was also a guest in program
- Built by wealthy local aristocrats, Chicago lawyers, and other businessmen it was named the 248 Club or the "Hotel Big Blue". It was purchased by the Scouts in the 1920s and sold in the 1940s
- The land is currently the Blue Lake Boat Launch site, directly across from Blackhawk Aquatics

Segregation in Scouting

- Douglas Division
  - In Chicago white Scouts were broken into geographic districts. Black Scouts were all placed in the Douglas Division, the segregated division for all African American youth of Chicago. These Scouts attended Camp Belnap which was the segregated sub-camp of Owasippe.
  - OA Takodah Chapter served this “District”
- Chicago was among the first segregated councils in the Boy Scouts to desegregate in 1948

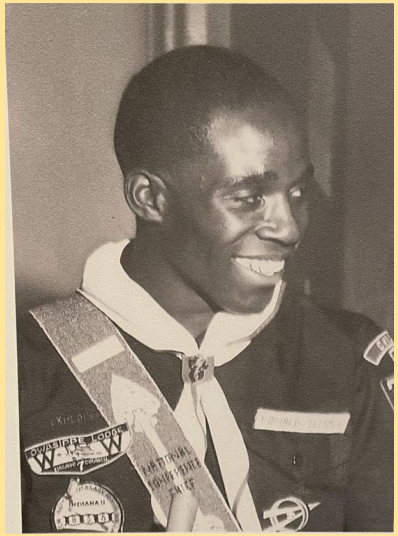
A meeting of the Cub Scouts in the community center of the Ida B. Wells Homes (1942)

Camp Belnap (Belknap)

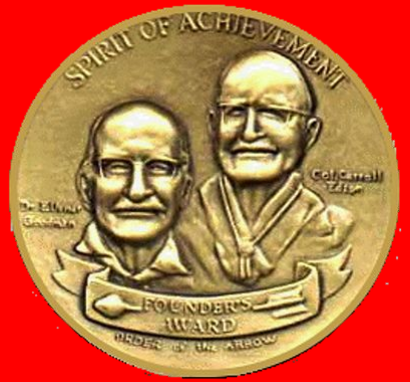
- Served as the assigned segregated camp for the Scouts of Douglas Division
- Camp Belnap first opened in 1926 on lakes Ojibwe and Wat-I-See
- Belnap had moved around all over the property since it’s first encampments
    - Notably there were summers where the original Camp Blackhawk (Opened 1925) was used for “Belnap” after the regular season had ended, the Camp gate sign was merely swapped out,

Notable African American Scouters of Owasippe

- *Emerson James*
  - Camp Director of Camp Belnap
  - Chief of Takodah Chapter
  - First African American O.A. Brotherhood AND Vigil Honor Member aka “NETAMI” (The First)
    - Fun Fact: James sat his Vigil only 10 weeks after Jesse Owens won Gold medals for the US in the 1936 Nazi Germany hosted Olympic Games
- *Dr. Ronald J. Temple*
  - First African-American National Chief of the Order of the Arrow from 1961 - 1962
  - Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago under Mayor Richard M. Daley
  - President of the Philadelphia Community Colleges
  - Recipient of the OA Distinguished Service Award



The O.A Founders in Chicago

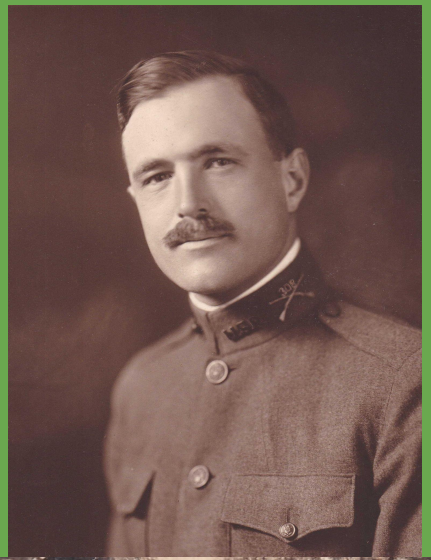


In the summer of 1915 young camp directors E. Urner Goodman and Col. Carrol Edson founded the “Wimachtendienk” (now the Order of the Arrow) at Treasure Island Scout Camp on the Delaware River. The organization was founded as an Honor-Camper program for older Scouts in camp. It was modeled off of the ideas of Freemasonry, of which both of the founders were Master Masons

Col. Carroll A. Edson

In 1920 Edson came to Chicago Council as the Executive of the South Shore District of Chicago

- Founded Camp West, serving as Director till his departure from Chicago
- Founded Camp Blackhawk with Mr. A. Carpenter in 1925
- Left Chicago in 1927



Camp Blackhawk (1925 -1979)

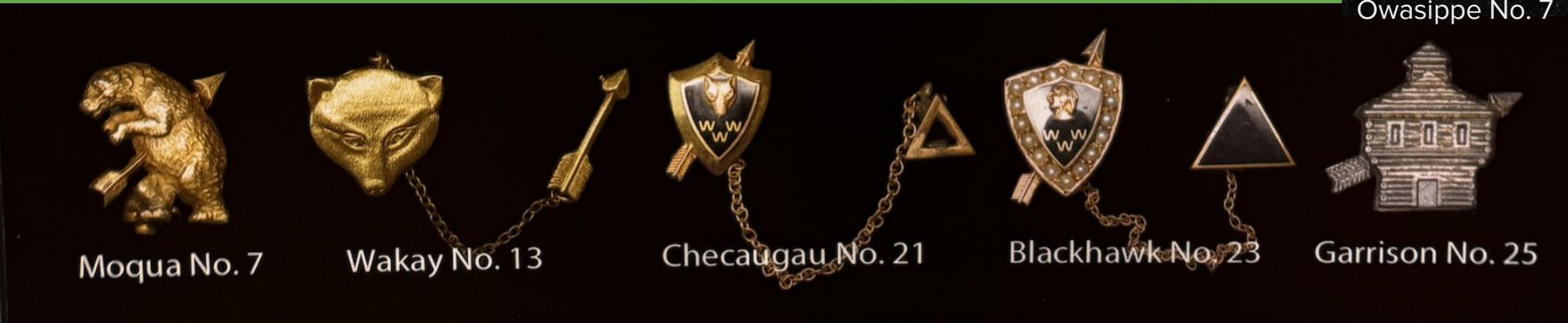
- Founded in 1925 for the West Side District
  - Initially two camps: Pioneer Camp (Edson) & Blackhawk (Carpenter)
    - Combined in 1926
- Closed after 1932 due to the Great Depression
- Re-opened in 1937 as Camp Pioneer
  - Belnap occupied the camp starting in 1937
- Closed in 1942 due to World War II
  - Belnap still used the property until 1948 (except 1942)
- Re-opened in 1949 as Blackhawk
- Last Subcamp to receive flush toilets (1980)

Council Executive Goodman

- Appointed Council Executive of Chicago April 13, 1927, the largest and most important Scouting position in the country at the time
- Wrote the Owasippe Hymn on the shore of Big Blue in 1929
    - The CURRENT location of the Blackhawk Firebowl
- Replaced by Perry Lint in 1931 as Scout Executive after Goodman was appointed National Director of Program

The Formation of Lodge #7

- Edson initially brought the OA with him founding the 1st Chicago Lodge; Moqua #7. In the years to follow, 4 other lodges would be founded, each serving a particular district/camp
- Goodman came to Chicago and reorganized the OA into one lodge to fall in line with the “1 Council, 1 Lodge” standard. He merged all the Chicago Lodges May 18, 1929, adopting the lowest number from Moqua , forming Owasippe Lodge #7 (1927 - 2018)
    - Moqua (Camp West)
    - Blackhawk (Camp Blackhawk)
    - Checaugau (Camp Checaugau)
    - Wakay (Camp Beard)
    - Garrison (Camp McDonald)
    - Takodah (Douglas Division)



Owasippe Lodge #7

“The Hand of Friendship”

- 5 fingers representative of the 5 original lodges that created the lodge
- A hand guiding the Arrow (mirroring the OA principles) straight and true
- Derived from Michelangelo's “Hand of Creation”

Pop question - Where is this permanent symbol found today on Reservation?

Bonus Question - What did that location used to be?

Answer:

The Current OA Bowl, and it was the old Camp Wolverine South Firebowl

Circa. Early 1970's

Present Day

1933 10th Grand Lodge Meeting at Owasippe Camps

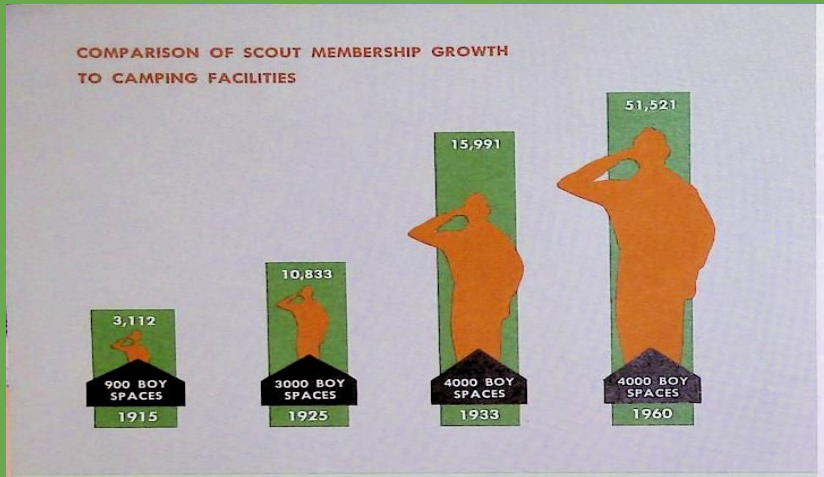
From the Founding of the OA at Treasure Island in 1915 till this point in time the “Wimachtendienk” as it was known was a separate entity and was not an official Scouting program. In September of 1933, 252 Chiefs and representatives of 23 lodges around the country convened at Owasippe for a National meeting of the Order. Included in the meeting was members of Owasippe’s Takodah Chapter, making this the first ever racially integrated National Event.

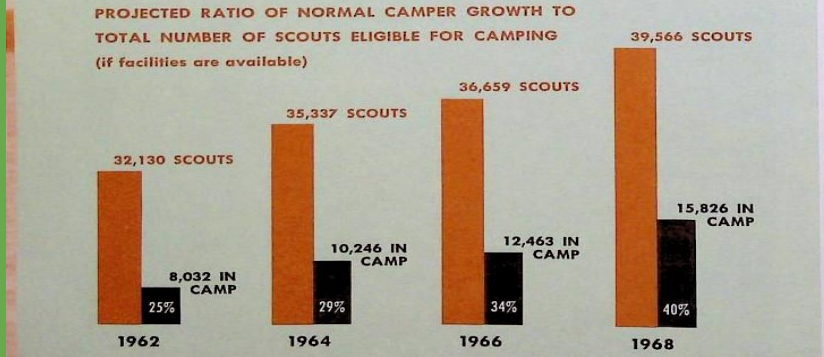
It was at this meeting held at Owasippe that a vote was held and the decision was made, in partnership with the National Boy Scouts of America, to make the OA an official part of the Scouting program!

Owasippe Hymn
Written 1929

The Scouting Boom

Great Depression through 1960





There has been much talk recently about the "Population Explosion"

THE CONTROVERSIES, thus far, have centered around countries other than our own and around such basic problems as food, clothing and shelter.

But the problem is with us, too, and its effects, more subtle, perhaps, take on a different aspect.

If, as expected, our country continues its present rate of growth, it is estimated that in 40 years—by the year 2,000—this nation will have to duplicate its present physical plant. This means building again what it took our forefathers 150 years to build.

This is an age of lightning-like change and jet-speed progress. To keep pace and avoid costly, chaotic delays later, a well-planned and steady expansion of this country's community services also is essential. Schools, churches, health and welfare agencies, and by all means indispensable community services such as the Boy Scouts must continue to grow.

Aging Camps and the Future

With growing campership, and aging facilities at the original 3 Camps, Scouts were looking for new developments to be made at Owasippe

In a matching capital campaign in partnership with the Chicago Tribune, donations were made to the Council to fund the building of 3 new camps, and a Reservation Headquarters.

Capital Campaign

These facilities were established through a major $3.8 million capital campaign (equivalent to $41.5 million today), led by R. Douglas Stuart in 1959. The Camp Capital Campaign was a massive undertaking that resulted in the opening of two new camps—Camp Yorkville (changed to Hoover in 1982) and Camp Crete—as well as the expansion and "modernization" of Owasippe. Among the largest projects to come out of the campaign were Reneker, Wolverine North, Wolverine South, and the Ad Center.

As is often the case, the original vision for the campaign was much more ambitious. The Chicago Council proposed a total of 16 new section camps to be opened with seven to be opened by the end of the campaign. Only four of the seven were ultimately brought to life: Sauger Lake and Robert Crown, in addition to the camps mentioned above.

The NorthEast Expansion

On land formerly owned by the Chicago Tribune for newspapers, the Scouts broke ground for the development of what we know as the current Reservation in 1963

OWASIPPE RESERVATION

SECTION CAMPS

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES*

UNIT NO.	FACILITY		UNIT PRICE
OW55-60	Service Lodge (6)	Each	$ 25,000
OW61-64	Swimming Pool (4)	Each	75,000
OW65-136	Unit Campsites (72)	Each	4,000
OW137-208	Unit Program Equipment (72)	Each	1,500
OW209-214	Boat Dock, Paddle House & 15 Boats (6)	Each	8,000
OW215-220	Canoe Racks, Paddle House & 15 Canoes (6)	Each	5,000
OW221-224	COMPLETE SECTION CAMP (4)	Each	167,000
OW225-226	COMPLETE SECTION CAMP (2)	Each	92,000
	Facilities Serving All Owasippe Section Camps		
OW227-229	Chapel (3)	Each	30,000
OW230-232	Rifle Range (3)	Each	5,000
OW233-235	Mo-Skeet Range (3)	Each	3,000
OW236	Canoe Base & 30 Canoes		15,000
OW237	Wolverine Lake Development		80,000

*The unit prices listed are related to desirability and not based on the cost of construction.

Service Lodge

Swimming Pool

SIX NEW SECTION CAMPS will replace the present worn-out and obsolete camps at Owasippe. Each section camp will have twelve troop campsites, increasing the total summer camp capacity initially from 4,000 to about 6,000 boys. Four of the six new section camps will have double-purpose swimming pools designed to permit total use by two troops at the same time while preserving unit identity.

Economy of construction, as well as simplicity, is achieved by employing modular design; prefabricated shop assembly and post and beam framing; standardization of window sash, doors and hardware; open ceilings, exposed rafters and many other cost-saving methods.

Durability, ease of maintenance and design in keeping with the setting are the goals.

Chapel

OWASIPPE RESERVATION

CENTRAL SERVICE AREA

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES*

UNIT NO.	FACILITY		UNIT PRICE
OW1	Information Lodge		$ 10,000
OW2	Administration Center		50,000
OW3	Food Service Center		150,000
OW4-7	Commissary Staff Cabin (4)	Each	4,000
OW8	Trading Post, Canteen and Outfitter's Store		210,000
OW9	Health Lodge		75,000
OW10	Parent's Picnic Area		5,000
OW11	Public Sanitary Unit		3,000
OW12	Staff Lodge		20,000
OW13-27	Staff Quarters (15)	Each	1,000
OW28	Laundry		5,000
OW29	Central Maintenance Shop (Equipped)		60,000
OW30	Heavy Machinery (Bull Dozer, Grader, etc.)		60,000
OW31	Chief Ranger's Home		20,000
OW32	Assistant Ranger's Home		15,000
OW33-54	Staff Family Cabins (22)	Each	3,500

*The unit prices listed are related to desirability and not based on the cost of construction.

Administration Center

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Master Plan for Owasippe Reservation, central service facilities will be provided in order to achieve maximum efficiency and economy of operation.

Centralization of basic camp services eliminates costly structural and operational duplications and permits flexibility of unit choice as to housing, feeding and fee structure; allows close-in placement of least experienced troops; and provides a central distribution point nearest public roads having maximum use.

Adequate staff facilities will be provided to attract qualified and more effective personnel.

Health Lodge

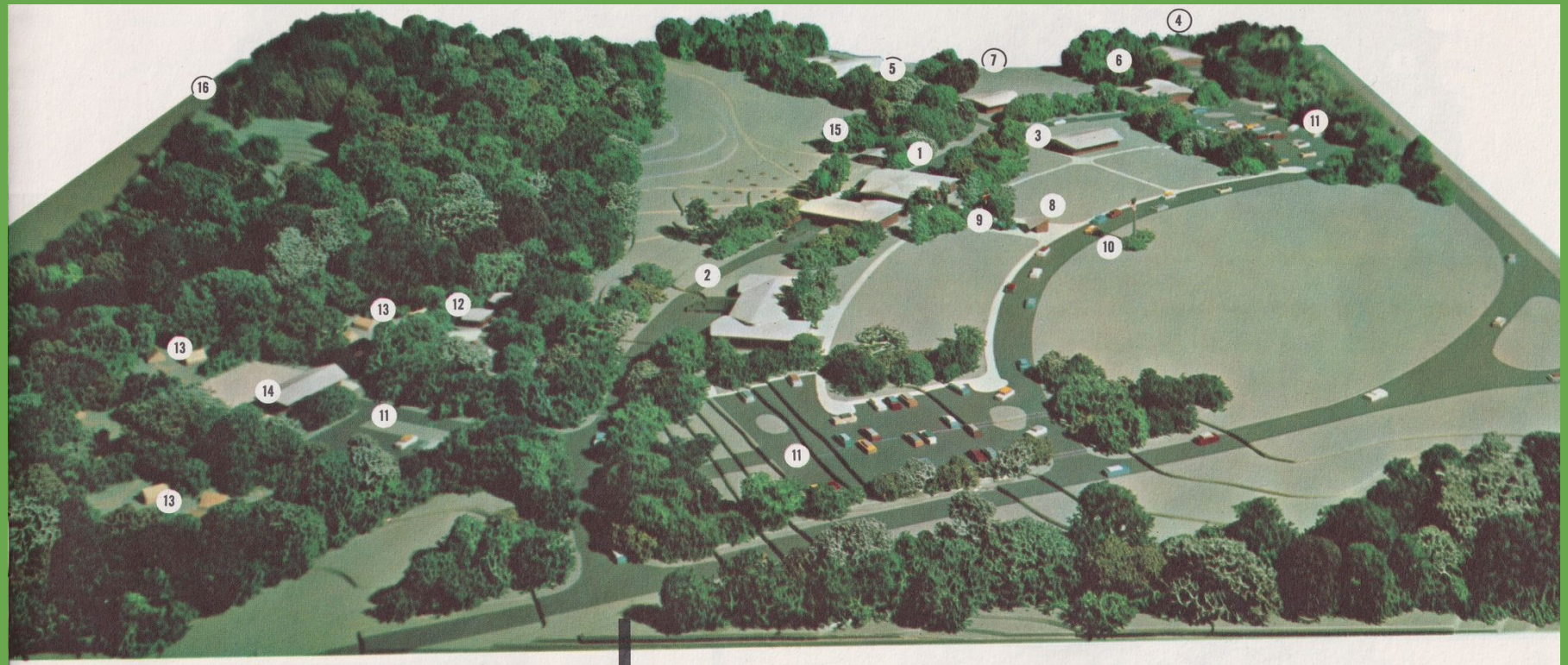
Food Service Center

TYPICAL SECTION CAMP

OWASIPPE RESERVATION

1. Service Lodge
2. Swimming Pool
3. Bath House
4. Parking Area
5. Troop Campsites
6. Chapel

Ad Center Plans (Opened 1965)



CENTRAL SERVICE AREA

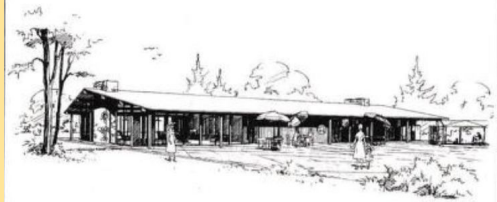
OWASIPPE RESERVATION

1. Trading Post, Canteen and Outfitters Store Building
2. Food Service Center
3. Administration Center
4. Health Lodge
5. Central Maintenance Shop
6. Chief Ranger's Home
7. Assistant Ranger's Home
8. Information Lodge
9. Scout Symbol
10. Flag Pole
11. Parking Lots
12. Commissary Staff Cabins
13. Staff Quarters
14. Staff Lodge
15. Public Sanitary Unit
16. Central Water Supply

Construction on the new Wolverine camps and the Administration Center at the Owasippe Scout Reservation is right on schedule as these recent pictures show. Buildings at the Administration Center shown are: left to right, the food preparation building, Order of the Arrow information booth, trading post, the administration building, and the public toilets.

NEW FAMILY CAMP READY TO OPEN NEXT SUMMER AT OWASIPPE SCOUT RESERVATION

The photo above shows the typical cabin in family camp. Below is the artist's rendering of the new Scouter family lodge which at the present time is nearing completion.



Perhaps the most significant phase of the Chicago Area Council camp development program will be completion of the new Family Camp at Owasippe Scout Reservation.

It will be open for the 1964 season.

Cabins are to be available for the immediate family of any man who is giving leadership to a unit in camp.

CABINS SLEEP 6

Each cabin is equipped to sleep six, with two bedrooms (double bunk in each) and a fold-out double sofa bed in the living room. It includes an electric kitchen unit with three-burner stove, double sink, oven, broiler and refrigerator. There is a dinette and separate wash lavatory with hot and cold water.

Other family camp facilities include playgrounds, laundry facilities, indoor recreation rooms, complete grocery store, swimming pool and wading pool.

The cost is only $15 per week per cabin. A special pamphlet will soon be available with complete details.

The new family camp is further evidence of the helpful services that are made possible only by the voluntary contributions of Chicago area people.

$2,300,000 Camp Expansion Program Scheduled for Completion During '65 and '66

The Chicago Area Council's camp improvement and expansion program, which showed great progress during 1963, will continue this year. In fact, the plan will not reach final completion until 1966.

EXPANSION ALREADY PAID FOR

A total of $2,300,000 is being spent in the camp program. The money has already been raised from the recent Camp Capital fund drive and from endowment reserves.

The newest camp, at Yorkville, Illinois, opened for the first time in the fall of 1962, and since that time has hosted thousands of boys.

TRADING POST MOVING TO NEW QUARTERS: SERVES VOLUNTEERS

As Scouting grows in the Chicago area, it becomes necessary to move the Trading Post to service volunteers more effectively. The Trading Post will move along with Council offices from 9 West Washington to new and larger quarters on the ninth floor of the 300 West Adams Street Building. Moving date will be June 1.

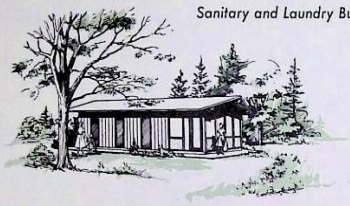
The Trading Post employees have been serving the volunteers of the Chicago area for many years. They have a complete supply of badges and official Scout equipment and can get more if

BOY SCOUTS ACHIEVE NEW HIGHS IN INDIVIDUAL ADVANCEMENT

177 Boy Scouts were awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in the Chicago Area Council this year. Southwest District ranked first with 17 Eagles, Tri-Ridge District second, and Forest District third.

361 boys were awarded the rank of Life, and 761 the rank of Star.

Interesting is the fact that 13,778 merit badges were awarded to boys in the Chicago Area Council. Of the merit badges, Swimming was most popular, with 1,145 being awarded, Cook-



Sanitary and Laundry Building

Family Cabin

OWASIPPE RESERVATION
SCOUTER FAMILY CAMP
MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES*

UNIT NO.	FACILITY		UNIT PRICE
OW238	Recreation & Service Lodge		$ 35,000
OW239	Children's Wading Pool		5,000
OW240	Swimming Pool		60,000
OW241-242	Sanitary & Laundry Buildings (2)	Each	15,000
OW243-292	Family Cabins (50)	Each	3,500
OW293	Children's Playground		7,000

*Unit prices listed are related to desirability and not based on cost of construction.

THE CHICAGO COUNCIL has more than 17,500 adult volunteer leaders who give unstintingly of their time and energy to provide guidance for our boys throughout the year.

The Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters and leaders of Explorer Posts are expected to carry this guidance into the field with their units...on overnight and weekend as well as long-term summer camping trips.

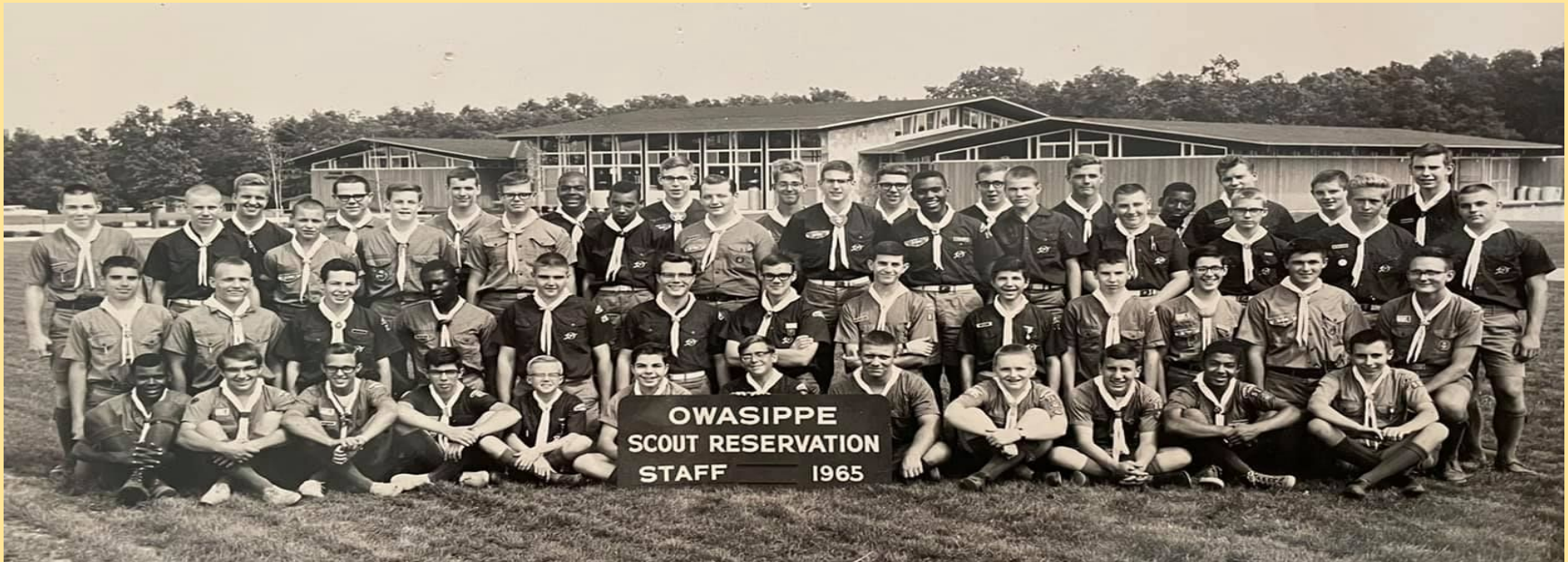
At Owasippe, in particular, more attractive, efficient and economical Scouter Family facilities will be provided in order to attract qualified and skilled leaders who might not otherwise be able to accompany their units because of conflicts with family vacation plans.

At right is a drawing of the Scouter Family Camp located at Owasippe Scout Reservation.

The “NEW” Owasippe Scout Reservation

Now formally known as the “Owasippe Scout Reservation”, our new camps were open and ready for Scouts to arrive

- Wolverine North & Wolverine South - 1965
- Ad Center Complex - 1965
- Family Camp (later Reneker) - 1964



Owasippe's new Central Service Area

Administration Center

Ranger Housing

Food Service Center

Maintenance Shop

OWASIPPE SCOUT RESERVATION

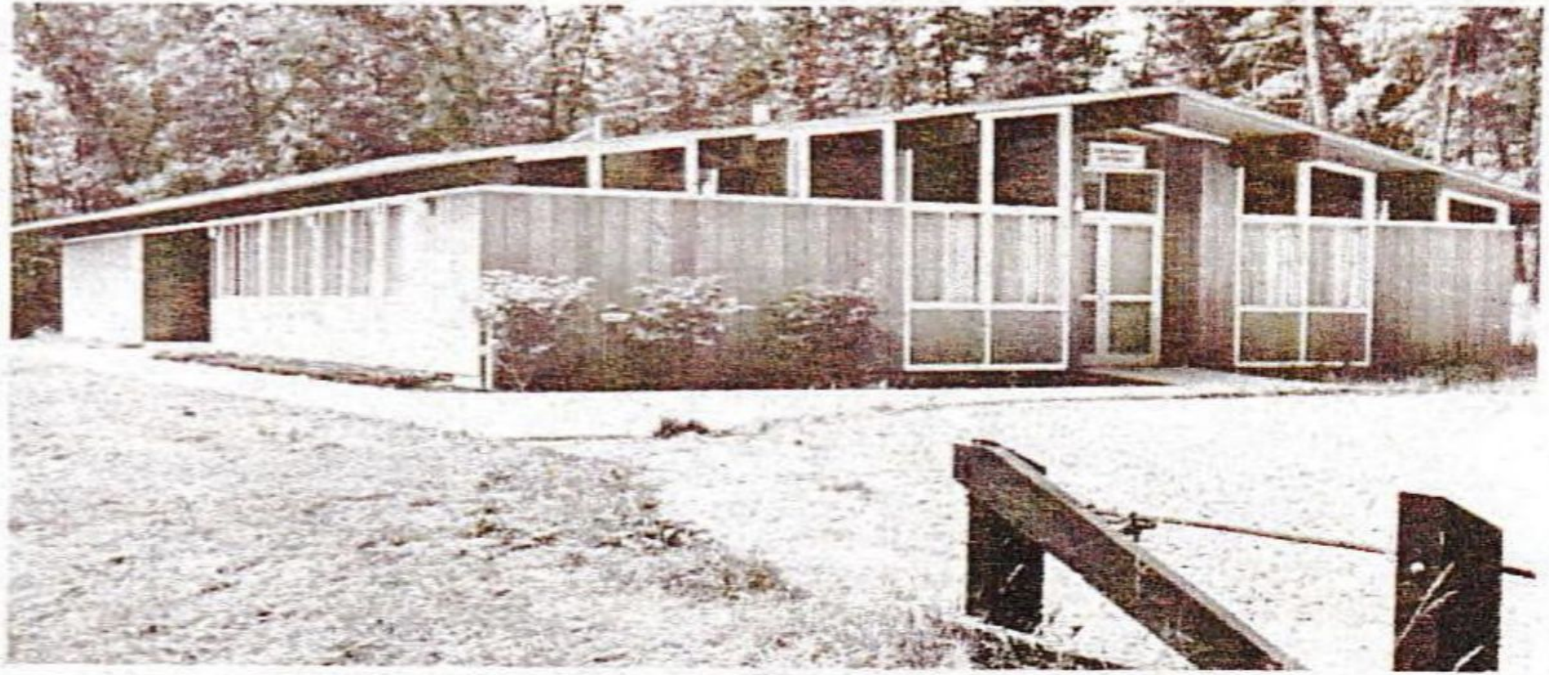
One of the world's largest and most modern Boy Scout Camps

Dedicated July 10, 1965

Chicago Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

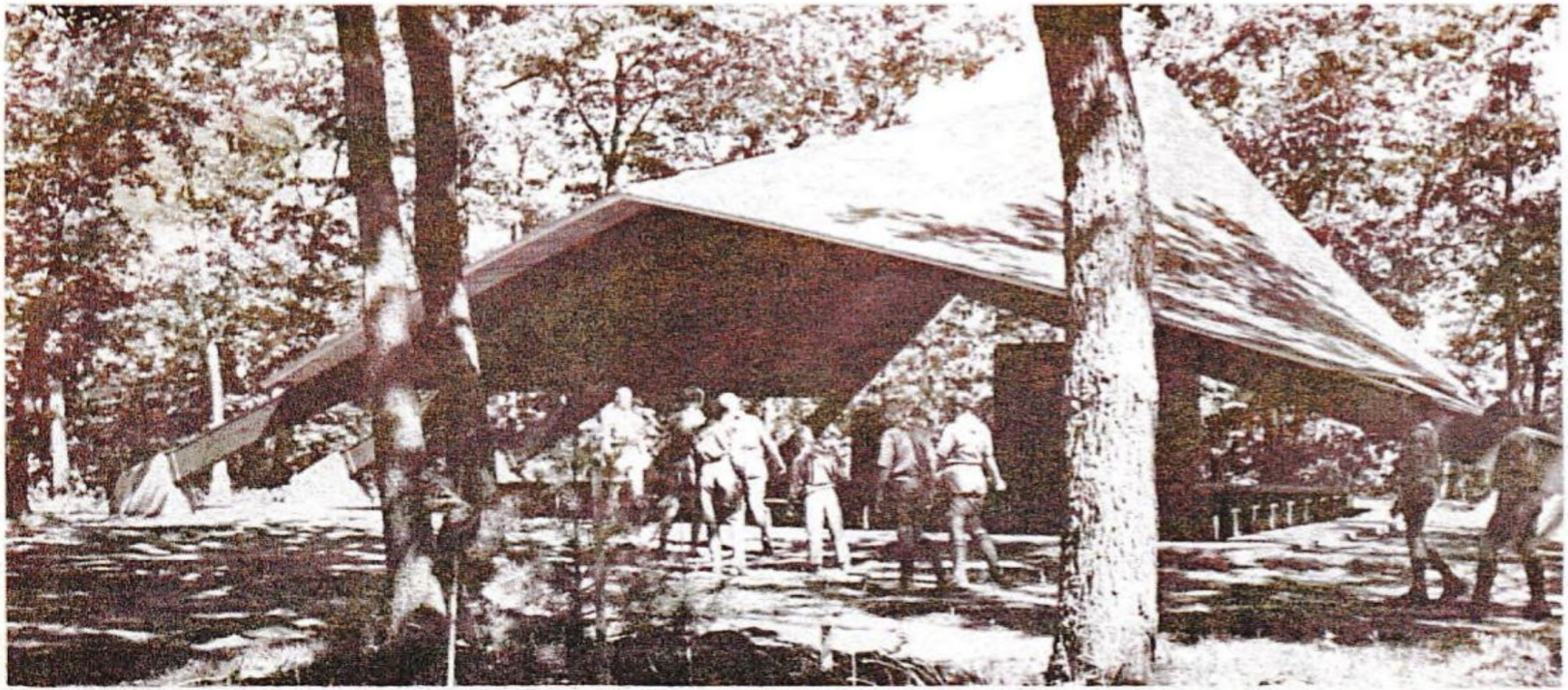
Family Camp
Recreation Area

Health Lodge



Health Lodge. Modern facilities provided here include a 12-bed ward, two isolation rooms, two treatment rooms, an emergency room, nurse's office and apartment, and doctor's office.

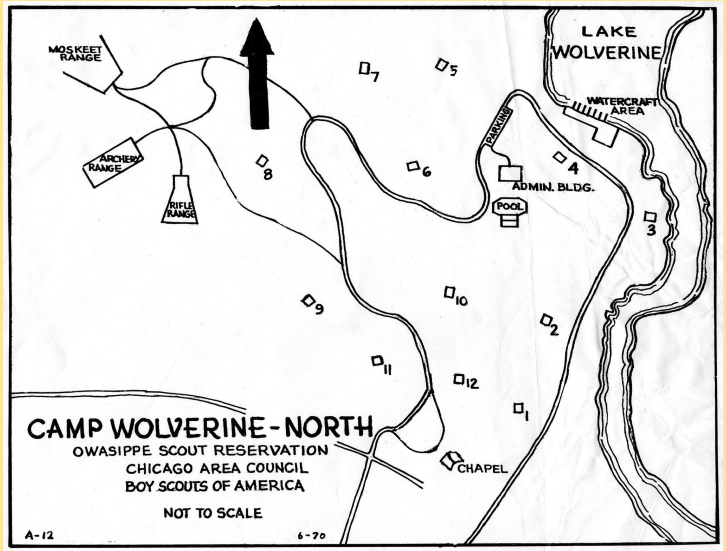
Wolverine Chapel

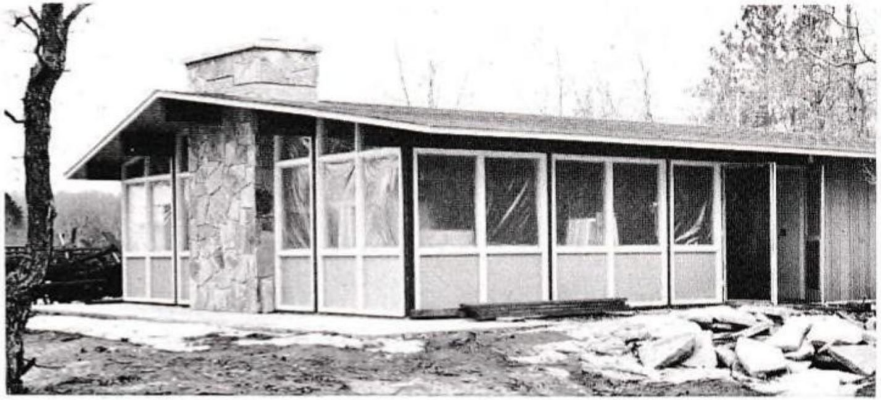


The Reverend Keith Ferguson (left), Protestant Chaplain at Owasippe, is shown here with a group of Scouts at the new Interdenominational Chapel. Five resident chaplains, two Protestant, two Catholic, and one Jewish, will be on hand to serve the Scouts while at camp.

Camp Wolverine: North and South

- Dedicated in 1965
  - North - “ZAP!”
  - South - “DIXIE!”
- Named for “Club Lake Wolverine”, a hunting and fishing club which operated on, and created, Lake Wolverine
- Each had 12 sites, Lodge, Pool, Docks, and program areas
- Patrol method camp, with food delivered by hotpack
- Combined camp in 1980
  - 1980 call - “WHAT?!”
  - 1981 to Present - “Zaxie!”

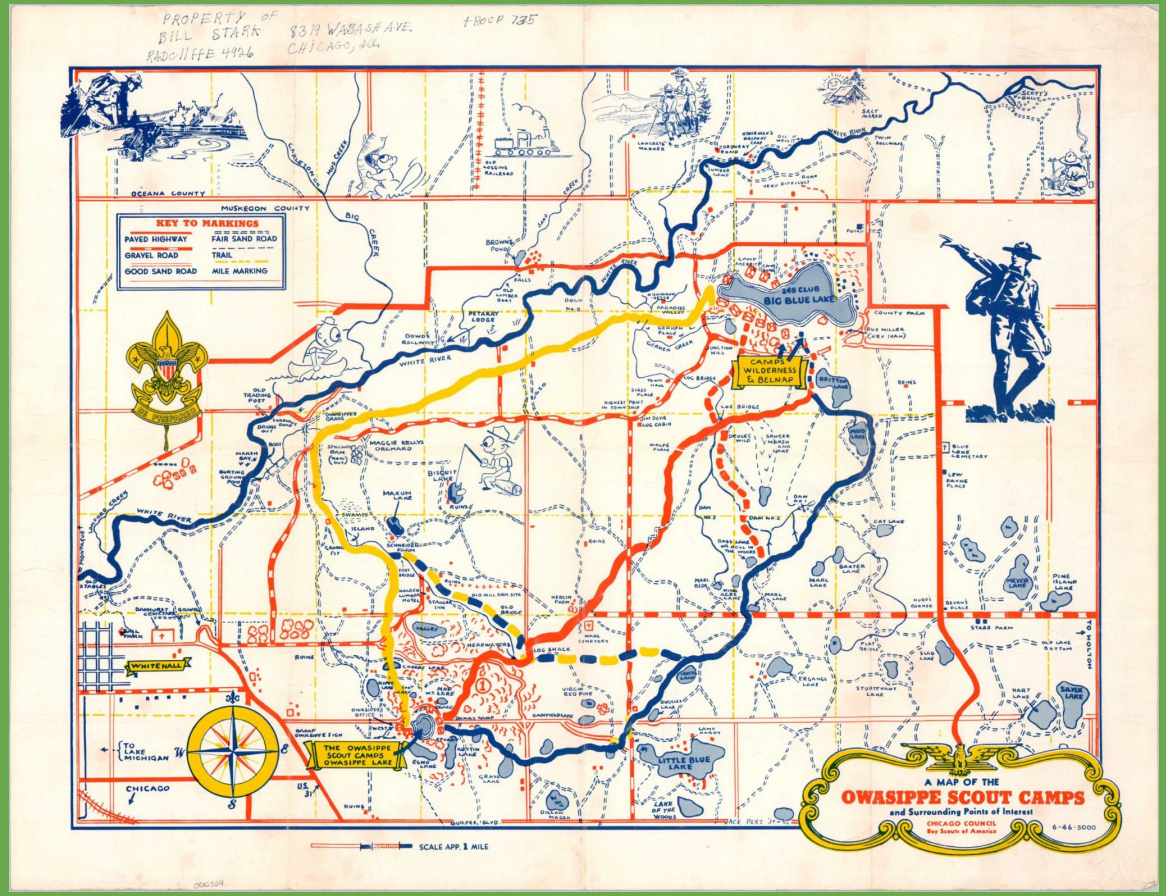




Work on the Wolverine South section camp headquarters, shown in the above photo, is nearly completed. Wolverine North will have a similar headquarters.

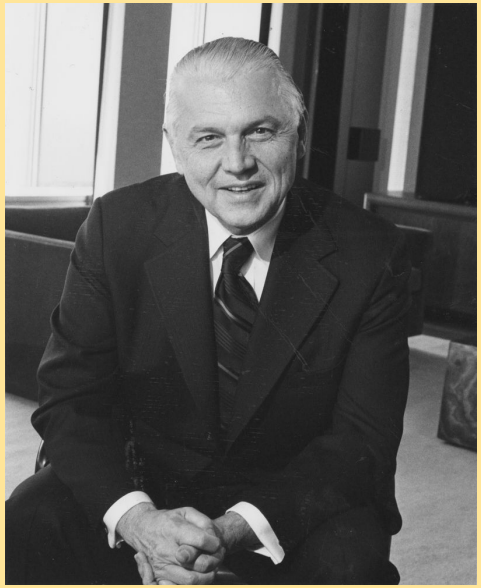
Lone Troop Camps and the Yellow Trail

- Hiawatha Beach
- Camp Frontier
- Bass Lake
- Camp Wilderness
- White River Lumber Camp
- Camp Pioneer (North Big Blue)



Camp (Robert) Reneker

- First operated in 1964 as ‘Family Camp’
- Dedicated as Camp Reneker in 1981
- Named for Robert Reneker (1912 - 1981)
  - Council President 1963-1964
  - National President 1973-1975
  - University of Chicago Board President
- Camp includes 40 family unit cabins, shower houses, pool, lodge, and recreation areas
  - The original plans called for a “C” and “D” side to be built and would have brought the cabin total to 80



Camp (Raymond) Carlen

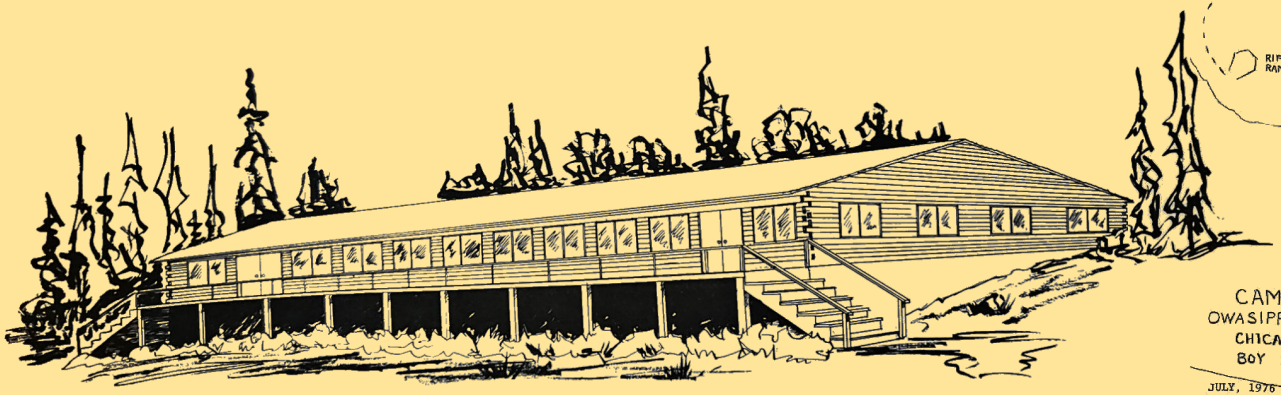
- First Operated in 1969 as Camp Sauger Lake (Over All!)
- Dedicated Camp Carlen (Bahooka!) in 1983
- Named for Maj. Raymond Carlen (1919 - 1989)
  - Chicago Area Council President 1970-1974
  - World War II Bronze Star Recipient
  - Vice Chairman of Inland Steel Co.
- Originally outfitted with 10 sites and a Dining Hall (Sister of Blackhawk DH)
- Webelos Camp in 2012-13, 2016-17
- NYLT sporadic years

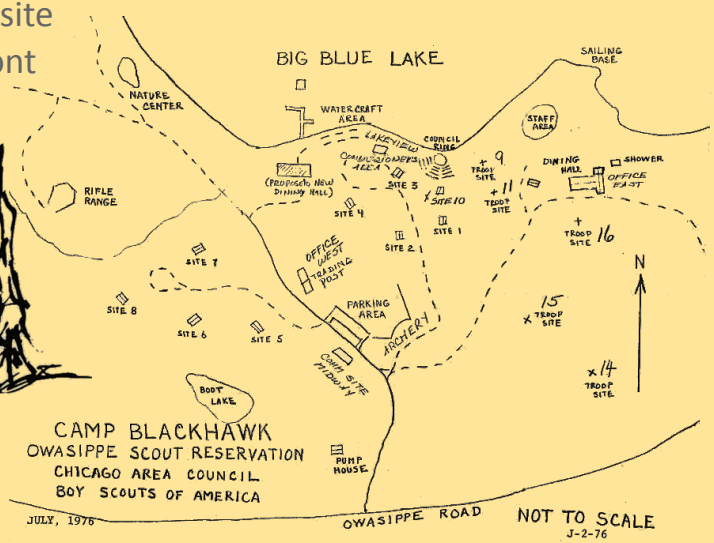
Camp Robert Crown

- First operated in 1971
- Named for USN Captain Robert Crown (1921 - 1969)
  - President of Henry Crown & Co.
  - Co-Chairman of U-505 Committee
- Camp Akela (Webelos) in 1979
- Robert Crown operated as a patrol method camp with all cooking and meals being done by troops in the sites
- Closed as Scout Camp in 1991 due to declining camper attendance

Camp Blackhawk's Relocation (1980)

- After a substantial donation made by the Stuart Family, the relocation and rebuilding of Blackhawk was set in Motion
- In 1973 it was announced that Blackhawk would be rebuilt as a '12-month camp'
  - This was said to be in response to CPS's experimental year-round school schedule
  - Overcrowding and aging infrastructure at Old Blackhawk
- It was a multiple year transition
  - Both 'old' and 'new' Blackhawk used at same time until construction of the new dining hall was completed in 1980. Electricity was still being wired as campers drove in for the summer
  - D.H built in proximity of the Camp Wilderness Factor's Cabin site
  - Current Waterfront, originally the Camp Wilderness Waterfront





WELCOME TO
OWASIPPE SCOUT
RESERVATION
ESTABLISHED 1911
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE
COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

FOR SALE
WELCOME TO
OWASIPPE SCOUT
RESERVATION
ESTABLISHED 1911
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE
COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Owasippe Scout Reservation 9900 Russell RD.

In September 11, 2002 Chicago Area Council President Lou Greenblatt and Board announced the decision to sell Owasippe for a sum of $19 Million to the Benny V Development Group of Holland, MI so that the property may be bulldozed and redeveloped as summer homes.

- The Council planned on taking the money to purchase land closer to the Chicagoland Area and building a new camp in Illinois
- Though the purchase agreement had been signed and done, the transaction itself was not yet complete. The property zoning had to be changed with Blue Lake Township first before the deal could be closed

Saving Owasippe

- Blue Lake Township Board voted against the rezoning, in favor if saving Owasippe
- Lawsuits and Countersuits were filed in both the States of Michigan and Illinois
  - Lawsuit in Illinois filed to fight sale of the property
  - Lawsuit filed by the Council against Blue Lake Township for rezoning, after Blue Lake voted against rezoning Owasippe for development
- The deal was terminated with developer after the Council lost both lawsuits and higher appeals in both the State of Michigan and State of Illinois Supreme Court (heard by Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke).

Owasippe Turns 100

Council Mergers - 2015

In 2015, the Chicago Area, Northwest Suburban, Calumet, and DesPlaines Valley Councils all merged to create the council we know today as the **Pathway to Adventure Council, Scouting America**

Our Council spans the Greater Chicagoland Area and Northwest Indiana serving **14,000 Youth and 5,100 volunteers**

Lodge Merger - 2019

Similarly, there have been O.A Lodge mergers as well. In 1927, Dr. Goodman set the precedent of Lodge mergers nationally with the formation of Owasippe Lodge #7.

After the Council merger, In late 2017 the merger processes began for the lodges; Owasippe #7, Michigamea #110, Lakota #175, and Pachsegink #246.

Choosing the lowest number as before, in 2019 the youth of the council formed **Takhone Lodge #7!**

Camps and Staff of Today

YOU are the FUTURE.

YOU are OWASIPPE!

Make your training an example. Join Staff!

Be the staff member that inspired you!

Carry on the legacy of the past and serve the Reservation for the future!

Please SHARE and FOLLOW the Museum!

Instagram - @Owasippe.Museum

Facebook - E. Urner Goodman Owasippe Museum

Website - OWASIPPEMUSEUM.ORG

Thank you to our contributors and historians

- National Order of the Arrow Archive / Goodman-Edson Observatory
- National Scouting Museum - Philmont Scout Ranch, NM
- Berwyn Historical Society - Berwyn, IL
- Daniel Scripsema - Blue Lake Historian
- E. Urner Goodman Owasippe Museum Committee
    - Special thanks to Committee researchers Kaylyn Dix and Tom Nelson
- White Lake Museum
- Chicago History Museum
- Donors and Alumni